

Town of Rowe – FY2012
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2012 – 6:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 6:05pm.

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott and Selectmen Paul McLatchy III and Bob Clancy

Also Present: School Committee members Bill Loomis and Lisa Danek Burke
Finance Committee members Marilyn Wilson, Dennis May, Maggie Parent and Myra Carlow

Note: As the Finance Committee did not post their meeting, they could not convene and participate in the budget meeting. The School Committee did have a posted meeting to meet with the Select Board.

FY2013 School Budget: The School Committee presented their preliminary School Budget for FY2013. The School Committee will hold their formal budget hearing on Monday, March 5th, and will vote to adopt the final budget at their March 13th meeting. Chairman Loomis stated that Superintendent Buonoconti and Business Manager Blier usually attend the meeting when the budget is presented to the town, but were not available this evening due to vacation and other meetings. Chairman Loomis stated that he will take to them any questions that cannot be answered this evening.

FY2013 School Budget:	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% Increase Over FY2012</u>
Rowe School Local Budget	\$ 1,000,888	5%
Less Revolving Accounts	<u>(157,807)</u>	12%
Total Rowe School Budget	\$ 845,081	4%
 Shared Services Budget	 <u>\$ 133,257</u>	 7%
 TOTAL K-6 BUDGET	 \$ 1,134,145	 6%
 High School Budget	 <u>\$ 418,455</u>	 13%
 TOTAL FY2013 BUDGET	 \$ 1,552,600	 8%

Large increase in High School budget is due to increased number of grade 7-12 students. There will be several years with higher high school enrollment. Rowe Elementary School is now seeing dwindling enrollment which will eventually trickle down to decreased high school enrollments. Chairman Loomis stated that the dwindling Rowe School enrollment is a major item needing to be addressed in the future.

For FY2013 there are four (4) Pre-K (not part of School Choice program), two (2) Kindergarten, and one (1) Second grade declared openings.

Salary Wage increases for FY2013:

- **Teaching Staff:** Rowe teacher salary increases for FY13: if on steps then 1.8-3.5%; if at top of steps then 2.0%. Nurse will receive 2.0% increase. Chairman Loomis stated that the new three-year teacher contract effective August 2011 is a better contract than the previous one. He credited member Lisa Danek-Burke for working out the contract. Head Teacher stipend was increased from \$945 to \$1000 for FY13.
- **Principal:** Salary increase for FY2013 will be 2.5%
- **Non-teaching staff:** Increases for FY2013 will be 3.0%.
- **School Committee Secretary:** Will be increased to \$12.00 hour. Currently being paid approximately \$4.00 per hour.

It was noted that School Lunch receipts are down this year. Chairman Loomis will ask Principal Knittle what this is due to.

Transportation costs are very high. One expensive item is the transportation of one student in the Hoosac Tunnel section that is costing \$25,000 to be transported from their home on lower Tunnel Road to the Shunpike area on Rt. 2 to meet the regular bus. It is possible that some other type of arrangement can be made in lieu of sending a bus to that remote location for one student.

Selectman McLatchy again questioned the \$15K for the Spanish teacher at Mohawk Middle School. He does not believe this is cost effective as the same classes are available in later years.

Capital Items for FY2013:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| • Fixed Windows | \$ 92,292 |
| • Operable Windows | 27,318 |
| • Laptops (replace I-Books) | 6,000 |
| • Mac Books | <u>4,000</u> |

TOTAL \$ 129,610

Selectman Clancy suggested that the School Committee ought to look into purchasing some I-Pads in lieu of some of the laptops/Mac Books next year, as they are more versatile and cheaper than laptops/Mac Books.

The long-term capital plan presented by the School Committee will be redone in the format used by all other town departments. It will be provided to Town Accountant Miller in Excel© so items can be sorted as needed.

RECESS: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to take a 5 minute recess at 8:07pm.

RECONVENE: The Selectboard reconvened their meeting with Chairman Abbott calling it to order at 8:12pm.

Other FY2013 Budget Items:

- **Park:** Provided by Park Ranger Loomis: 1) Ops/Maint budget detail, 2) estimates/drawings for replacement of two footbridges at Park. Ms. Miller will check with MIIA to see if claim can be submitted for Pelham Brook Bridge that was demolished by a tree.
- **MLP Budget:** MLP Manager Noel Abbott presented \$1300 budget. One item needing more information is \$400 for fundraising effort. Ms. Miller will check to see if this is appropriate.
- **FRCOG:** Budget was received with following assessments for FY13:
 - **Statutory assessment:** \$ 6,388
 - **Regional Services assessment:** \$ 10,584
- **FCCIP:** Budget was received with following assessments for FY13:
 - **Building Inspection** \$ 4,224
 - **Electrical Inspection** \$ 2,827
 - **Plumbing Inspection** \$ 1,435

It is possible that these numbers will be lower if new funding process is put in place.

FY2013 Capital Items: Ms. Miller reported that she has emailed the Library Trustees, the Board of Health and the Fire Department asking them to provide updated CIP information for FY2013. All three currently have items listed in the FY13 CIP, but it is not known if they plan to pursue these items next year.

Dog Matter: Resident Dennis May asked what the process is for dealing with a nuisance dog that has bitten his wife, and is an ongoing problem for pedestrians. Ms. Miller provided him with the Report of Vicious and Barking Dog form. He should fill out the first portion of the form, sign it, and return it to the Board of Selectmen. They can then have the Dog Officer investigate the matter.

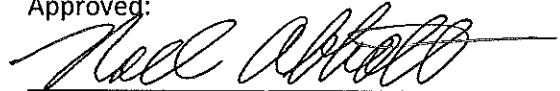
Presidential Primary Warrant: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to approve and sign the warrant for the upcoming March 6th Presidential Primary.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

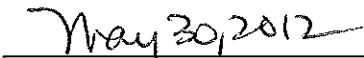
Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III



Date Approved

Robert J. Clancy

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Proposed FY2013 School Budget (Summary)
- Rowe School FY2013 Capital Plan Request; Rowe School Capital Plan
- Park Ops/Maint budget detail; footbridge (2) replacement information
- MLP FY2013 Budget
- FRCOG/FCCIP FY2013 Assessments